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Frank T. Nye

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Composition of the Assembly

Although they would not see alike on many issues during the long legislative session ahead, Republicans and Democrats could agree on two items as the Sixty-Fourth General Assembly opened for business on January 11, 1971:

1. The reduction in membership to 150 (50 Senators, 100 Representatives) from 185 (61 Senators, 124 Representatives) would make the legislature more manageable, and the elimination of 35 desks gave each legislator more working room, even though adequate space remained at a premium.

2. The newly-redecorated House and Senate Chambers were something to behold, especially the carpeting. In the House it was of a beautiful golden hue, dotted with the letter "I" in black. In the Senate the black "I's" were on a background of bright red. There were new draperies to match in each chamber.

Aside from these striking changes in decor, things were much the same as in 1969-70. Republicans remained in the majority in both House and Senate, although their margin in the House fell four votes short of the two-thirds majority necessary to override a gubernatorial veto, should they

ever feel the need to do so. The Republican margin in the Senate was much more comfortable. It stood at 38 to 12 when the session opened but dropped to 37 to 13 as the result of a special election in the Eleventh district March 8, 1971, when William G. Gross, Sioux City Democrat, was chosen to fill the vacancy left by the death of Senator Charles K. Sullivan, Sioux City Republican, on February 13, 1971.

Democrats had retained a seat at an earlier special election in the Twenty-Second district on January 11, the session's opening day. At that election, Cloyd Robinson of Cedar Rapids was chosen to succeed Senator J. Donald Weimer of Cedar Rapids, who resigned for business reasons after winning a four-year term the previous November.

Another change, not as significant, perhaps, but at least indicative of a continuing trend, was the drop in the number and percentage of seats held by farmers. This trend started in 1963, when reapportionment was in its early stages, and has been interrupted only once since, in 1968. Where farmers occupied 45 of 185 seats, or 24.3 per cent, in the Sixty-Third General Assembly, they claimed only 34 of 150 seats, 22.7 per cent, in 1971. In pre-reapportionment days, farmers often occupied more than 40 per cent of 158 seats.

As pointed out in earlier legislative issues of *The Palimpsest* reapportionment, with emphasis

on single-member districts, has broadened the number of occupations represented in the legislature. Prior to reapportionment, in 1964, the number of occupations represented seldom reached 35. Since reapportionment, it has been running as high as 63. The 1971 lawmakers represented 56 walks of life, as indicated in this table:

<i>Occupations</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Farmer	20	8	3	3	34
Lawyer	6	5	3	2	16
Insurance	5	2	1	2	10
Farmer-Businessman	3	1	5	0	9
Homemaker	3	1	1	0	5
Retired	3	0	2	0	5
Businessman	1	1	2	0	4
Educator	0	4	0	0	4
Farmer-Realtor	2	1	0	0	3
Insurance-Realtor	3	0	0	0	3
Realtor	1	0	2	0	3
Automobile Dealer ..	1	0	1	0	2
Banker	0	0	2	0	2
Contractor-Eng.	1	0	1	0	2
Contractor	1	0	1	0	2
Farm Manager	0	0	2	0	2
Food Co. Employee	0	1	0	1	2
Grain Elev. Owner	1	0	1	0	2
Pharmacist	1	1	0	0	2
Savings and Loan ..	1	0	1	0	2
Accountant	1	0	0	0	1
Auctioneer-Realtor	0	0	1	0	1
Automotive Bus.	0	0	1	0	1
Barber-Businessman	0	1	0	0	1

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Bdg. Con.-Ind. Mgr.	0	0	1	0	1
Housewife-Buswmn.	1	0	0	0	1
Ch. of Com. Mgr. ..	0	1	0	0	1
Chiropractor	0	0	0	1	1
College Counselor ..	0	1	0	0	1
Main. Mechanic	1	0	0	0	1
Con.-Motel Owner	0	0	1	0	1
Dept. Store Mgr.	0	0	1	0	1
Farmer-Insurance	1	0	0	0	1
Farmer-Laborer	1	0	0	0	1
Food Store Exec.	0	0	1	0	1
Furn. Store Own. ..	0	1	0	0	1
Gravel Co. Pres.	1	0	0	0	1
Grocer	0	1	0	0	1
Grocer-Farmer	0	1	0	0	1
Ind. Supplies Exec.	1	0	0	0	1
Ins.-Hotel-Cafe On.	0	1	0	0	1
Labor Executive	0	1	0	0	1
Lawyer-Housewife ..	1	0	0	0	1
Lawyer-Insurance ..	0	0	1	0	1
Law Student	0	1	0	0	1
Legislator	0	0	0	1	1
Livestock Auc. Own.	0	0	0	1	1
Manufacturer	0	1	0	0	1
Oil Jobber	0	1	0	0	1
Own. Pvt. Det. Agy.	0	0	0	1	1
Pres. Janitor Service	1	0	0	0	1
Poultry Processor ..	0	1	0	0	1
Printing Firm Own.	1	0	0	0	1
Pub. Power Co. Ex.	0	0	1	0	1
Salesman	0	0	0	1	1
Shopper Publisher ..	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	63	37	37	13	150

Of the 150 legislators, 34 were serving for the first time, 45 for the second time. Historically, the number of legislators returning begins to drop after the third session and this held true in 1971. Only 30 were in their third session and there was a significant drop to 13 who were in their fourth.

The legislature's "dean"—the man with the longest service record—was Representative Dewey E. Goode, Bloomfield Republican and a retired creamery operator, who was honored on his seventy-third birthday, June 2, 1971. The House took time out to present him with gifts and a birthday cake as members sang "Happy Birthday" during a standing ovation. First elected in 1932, Representative Goode has served in 15 of Iowa's 64 general assemblies. Although his service has not been continuous, he has been a member of both House and Senate. Among House Democrats, Representative Keith Dunton, Thornburg, in his seventh session, had the longest service record.

Longevity honors in the Senate were claimed jointly by Senators James E. Briles of Corning, Marvin W. Smith of Paullina, and Richard L. Stephens of Crawfordsville, for the Republicans, and by Senator C. Joseph Coleman of Clare, for the Democrats. Each was serving for the eighth time. Following is the experience rating of the 1971 legislators:

Session	House		Senate		Totals
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
First	16	13	3	2	34

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Second	18	14	13	1	46
Third	15	4	9	2	30
Fourth	2	4	3	4	13
Fifth	6	1	2	2	11
Sixth	1	0	3	0	4
Seventh	3	1	1	1	6
Eighth	1	0	3	1	5
Fifteenth	1	0	0	0	1
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	63	37	37	13	150

Old-timers could not remember a session with as many as four members in the 21-25 age bracket. But the 1971 session qualified with three Democrats and one Republican. Representative Daniel L. Bray, Jr., Davenport Democrat and a University of Iowa law student, was the youngest of the 150 legislators at 23. Youngest Republican was Representative John H. Clark, Keokuk insurance man, at 24. Both were serving for the first time.

In the Senate, "youngest" honors went for the third consecutive time to Senator John M. Walsh, 30, of Dubuque—Republican and department store manager. Newly-elected Senator Cloyd Robinson was the youngest Democrat at 32. A Quaker Oats Company employee in Cedar Rapids, he was serving his first session.

Oldest legislator was Representative Goode. Oldest House Democrat, at 65, was Representative John W. Patton, Aurora farmer and a former state Senator.

Senator Smith, 69, retired farmer-teacher and a

Republican, won "oldest" honors in the Senate. Oldest Democrat in the Senate was Senator Bass Van Gilst, 59, Oskaloosa farm owner, in his fourth session. This table shows the range in ages of the legislators:

Age Range	House		Senate		Totals
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
21-25	1	3	0	0	4
26-30	5	1	1	0	7
31-35	5	9	1	2	17
36-40	10	4	4	2	20
41-45	2	6	7	4	19
46-50	7	4	1	2	14
51-55	7	4	7	1	19
56-60	11	4	3	2	20
61-65	7	2	6	0	15
66-70	7	0	7	0	14
71-75	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	63	37	37	13	150

Thanks largely to Democratic members, who generally were younger than Republicans, the average age of the 1971 legislators fell below the 50-year mark for the third time in 14 years. In fact, the average fell to 48.4 years in 1971 from 50.1 in 1969, marking the second lowest in the 14-year span. Interestingly, three assemblies averaging less than 50 years have served since the 1964 reapportionment act was adopted. This table shows the average age of legislators in the last eight sessions:

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Year	House			Senate			Both Chambers		
	Rep.	Dem.	Totals	Rep.	Dem.	Totals	Rep.	Dem.	Totals
1971	49.8	42.8	47.2	52.6	47.4	50.6	50.9	43.2	48.4
1969	52.0	43.5	46.1	53.5	45.6	51.4	55.2	44.1	50.1
1967	51.5	45.1	49.7	51.1	46.3	48.6	51.4	45.6	49.3
1965	53.4	47.0	48.2	49.9	46.5	48.0	51.4	46.9	48.1
1963	52.9	50.9	52.4	55.2	48.2	53.5	53.7	50.1	52.7
1961	51.8	52.3	52.0	55.8	50.1	54.1	53.0	51.6	52.6
1959	50.4	49.5	50.1	54.1	48.1	52.1	51.7	49.6	50.8
1957	52.7	50.0	51.9	53.6	47.5	50.6	53.0	49.0	51.8

Educationally, 147 legislators were high school graduates and 108 had college degrees or had taken work beyond high school. This table shows the educational background of 1971 legislators:

	College or Beyond H.S.		High School		Grade School Only		Totals
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
Senate	29	9	8	3	0	1	50
House	46	24	16	12	1	1	100
Totals	75	33	24	15	1	2	150

Fifty-six legislators indicated they had served their nation in uniform. Their service records:

Served in	House		Senate		Totals
	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.	
World War I	0	0	0	0	0
World War II	12	9*	7	3*	31
W.W. II to Korea ..	0	0	1	0	1
Korean War	7	3*	3	3*	16
Korea to Vietnam	3	2	2	0	7
Vietnam War	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	23	14	13	6	56

* Senator Charles P. Miller and Representative Norman Rodgers each served in World War II and in the Korean War.

As usual, when Republicans are in the majority, there were more Methodists among 1971 legislators than any other sect. Catholics moved from third place in 1969 to second in 1971, ahead of Presbyterians, who dropped to fourth from second, and Lutherans, who moved into third from fourth. Four members reported they were "unaffiliated" with any church or religious group. Here are the religious backgrounds of the members:

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Methodist	15	9	13	3	40
Catholic	4	18	2	5	29
Lutheran	14	2	3	1	20
Presbyterian	8	0	9	1	18
Baptist	4	1	1	0	6
Episcopal	3	1	1	0	5
United Ch. of Christ	4	1	0	0	5
United Presby.	3	0	1	1	5
Christian	1	0	2	1	4
Congregational	3	0	1	0	4
Unaffiliated	0	4	0	0	4
Protestant	1	1	0	0	2
Ref. Ch. of America	1	0	1	0	2
Reorganized L.D.S.	0	0	2	0	2
Community	0	0	1	0	1
Christian Reformed	0	0	0	1	1
Disciples of Christ ..	1	0	0	0	1
Judaism	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	63	37	37	13	150

Exactly 120 legislators, or 80 per cent, were

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born in Iowa. This was two percentage points below the native-born Iowans who served in 1969-70. This table shows native states of members:

<i>Born in</i>	<i>House</i>		<i>Senate</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	<i>Rep.</i>	<i>Dem.</i>	
Iowa	50	27	31	12	120
Illinois	2	2	2	0	6
Minnesota	3	2	0	0	5
Nebraska	3	1	0	0	4
North Dakota	1	1	2	0	4
Missouri	1	0	1	0	2
Wisconsin	0	1	1	0	2
Florida	0	1	0	0	1
Kansas	1	0	0	0	1
Maine	0	1	0	0	1
Michigan	0	0	0	1	1
Ohio	0	1	0	0	1
South Dakota	1	0	0	0	1
West Virginia	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	63	37	37	13	150

The Sixty-Fourth differed in one respect from its 63 predecessors: It was unconstitutional. The Iowa Supreme Court held the 1969 apportionment act invalid, saying population variances were excessive. Yet, the court said, it could be used anyway for the 1970 election of the Sixty-Fourth. Thus, the court deliberately ignored, or chose to overlook, the people's mandate in the 1968 apportionment amendment: That when the court finds an apportionment act unconstitutional, it "shall within 90 days adopt or cause to be adopted" a plan that is constitutional.